CLAIMS

1. A method to count tickets comprising:

providing a translucent ticket with an opaque pattern providing translucent portions;

providing a light source on a first side of the ticket;

providing a detector on a second side of the ticket;

providing relative motion between the ticket and the detector; and

detecting the pattern and translucent portions with the detector.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising incrementing a running total of the tickets counted, a running total of verified tickets and a running total of non-verified tickets.

3. An apparatus for counting tickets comprising:

a housing;

a transport device coupled to the housing capable of guiding at least one ticket into the housing and the tickets are printed with a pattern;

a light source positioned on a first side of the ticket;

a detector positioned on a second side of the ticket; and

a signal analyzer coupled to the detector to analyze the signal provided by the detector.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the signal analyzer is comprised of a controller that counts, analyzes and determines barcode similarity relative to a location code.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the controller comprises a digital processor, a data memory and a program instruction.

6. The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising a ticket chopper.

7. The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising a ticket count display.

8. The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising a receipt printer.

9. A method for printing a pattern on a ticket comprising:

obtaining a plurality of translucent tickets;

feeding the plurality of translucent tickets into a ticket printing machine;

printing an opaque pattern on one side of each individual translucent ticket, such that there is an alternating pattern of translucent and opaque portions; and

covering the opaque pattern with a dark colored non-opaque ink.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein printing the opaque pattern is printed on both sides of each individual translucent ticket and the opaque patterns on both sides of each individual ticket are covered with the dark colored non-opaque ink.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the opaque pattern is printed on one side of each individual translucent ticket and both sides of each individual ticket are covered with the dark colored non-opaque ink.

BARCODE TICKET READER

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method to count tickets is provided that includes providing a translucent ticket with an opaque pattern with translucent portions, providing a light source on a first side of the ticket, providing a detector on a second side of the ticket and providing relative motion between the ticket and the detector. The pattern and translucent portions are detected with the detector.